

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of managing storage space in a digital camera, the method comprising:

- (a) allowing a user to set a number of image files to be added to a recording medium of the digital camera;
- (b) automatically calculating how many and determining which existing image files should be recompressed and the rate at which recompression should occur so as to create sufficient storage space in the recording medium to store the number of additional files set by the user;
- (c) restoring the image files selected to be recompressed;
- (d) recompressing the restored image files at the determined recompression rate;
- (e) storing the recompressed image files in the recording medium.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (f) determining whether an image file exists that is not already recompressed;
- (g) if an image file exists that has not been recompressed, displaying a menu indicating the number of files to be added to the recording medium of the digital camera and proceeding to step (h);
- (h) if all existing image files have been recompressed, displaying a message indicating that all existing image files have been recompressed and asking the user for permission to further recompress existing image files;
- (i) determining whether the user has granted permission to further recompress existing image files;
- (j) if the user denies permission, terminating the method;
- (k) if the user grants permission, displaying a menu indicating the number of files to be added to the recording medium of the digital camera.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- (l) determining if a recompression function has been selected.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein step (l) comprises determining whether a recompression button has been pressed.

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Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is removable from the digital camera.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a memory card.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the recording medium is compact flash card.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a memory stick.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the recompression utilizes the JPEG standard.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the digital camera includes a display unit.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the display unit is an LCD screen.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein steps f, g, h, i, j, and k are performed before steps a, b, c, d, and e.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein step 1 is performed first, and steps f, g, h, i, j, and k are performed before steps a, b, c, d, and e.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein images with lower compression ratios are selected for recompression before images with higher compression ratios.

Claim 15 (new): A method of managing storage space in a digital camera comprising:
receiving a signal from a user to take a photograph;
checking the remaining storage capacity of a memory card to determine if there is sufficient space to record an image file corresponding to the photograph;
if the remaining storage capacity is insufficient, receiving input from a user as to the number of new photographs the user wants to take;

automatically determining the existing images files to be recompressed and the recompression ratios for each existing image file to be recompressed in order to free up enough space on the memory card to accommodate the number of new photographs selected by the user;

restoring the existing image files to be recompressed;
recompressing the existing image files;
storing the recompressed image files on the memory card.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the recompression uses the JPEG standard.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the digital camera includes a display unit.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein the display unit is an LCD screen.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the digital camera includes a recompression button.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein images with lower compression ratios are selected for recompression before images with higher compression ratios.